

Message Text

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SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION -- PRESIDENNT FORD'S STATEMENTS IN
EUROPE

1. SUMMARY. STATEMENTS MADE BY PRESIDENT FORD DURING
HIS EUROPEAN TRIP URGING PEACE AND MODERATION,
ESPECIALLY IN MIDEAST, HAVE COME UNDER STRONG ATTACK IN
INDEPENDENT BUT OFTEN GOL-INSPIRED "AL-BAYRAQ", LEADING
INDEPENDENT "AN-NAHAR", AND OTHER PAPERS BOTH FOR
IGNORING ALLEGED U.S. CONTRIBUTION TO RECENT ISRAELI
ATTACKS ON SOUTH LEBANON AND FOR HOLDING ARABS AND
ISRAELIS EQUALLY RESPONSIBLE FOR CONTINUING MIDEAST
CRISIS. END SUMMARY.

2. BITTERLY CONTRASTING PRESIDENT FORD'S STATEMENTS
WITH REPEATED ISRAELI ATTACKS ON SOUTH LEBANON,
INDEPENDENT BUT OFTEN GOL-INSPIRED "AL-BAYRAQ" WROTE
(AUG. 6): "WHILE PRESIDENT FORD TALKS OF PEACE AND
FREEDOM AND PLEDGES TO GIVE WORLD HAPPINESS AND
PROSPERITY, WE FIND U.S. OFFICIALS INVITING ISRAELI MILITARY
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DELEGATION TO WASHINGTON TO HOLD TALKS RE ENORMOUS

QUANTITIES OF ARMS AND AMMUNITION THAT U.S. IS PLANNING TO GIVE ISRAEL.... AT THIS SAME TIME, AND TO SUPPORT PRESIDENT FORD'S ATTITUDE OF 'PEACE', ZIONIST GANGS ARE ATTACKING CIVILIAN HOUSES IN SOUTH LEBANON, BRINGING THEM DOWN ON HEADS OF OCCUPANTS, WHO INCLUDE OLD MEN, WOMEN, AND CHILDREN.... CAN PEACE OF WHICH AMERICA SPEAKS BE ACHIEVED BY ENCOURAGING ISRAEL TO COMMIT ITS CRIMES DAY AFTER DAY AGAINST OUR DEFENSELESS SOUTH?"

3. CRITICIZING PRESIDENT FORD'S STATEMENTS IN BELGRADE, EGYPTIAN AFFAIRS EXPERT FU'AD MATAR OF LEADING INDEPENDENT "AN-NAHAR" WROTE (AUG. 6): "PRESIDENT FORD HAS TAKEN UP ROLE AS PURVEYOR OF ADVICE AND LUMPED PARTY WHICH IS INTRANSIGENTLY PROCRASTINATING TOGETHER WITH PARTY WHICH IS SHOWING MODERATION AND FLEXIBILITY. THIS IS STRANGE ATTITUDE FOR PRESIDENT TO ADOPT. INSTEAD OF GIVING ADVICE, HE SHOULD PRESSURE ISRAEL.... HAD HE ADDRESSED HIS WORDS TO ISRAEL ALONE, THIS WOULD AT LEAST HAVE ENCOURAGED ARABS TO PERSIST IN THEIR MODERATION AND FLEXIBILITY... BUT PRESIDENT DID NOT DO THAT AND THUS DID GREAT HARM TO FLEXIBLE AND MODERATE ARAB POSITION."

4. PRO-SYRIAN "ASH-SHARQ" CALLED ON PRESIDENT FORD TO APPLY HIS WORDS TO HIS OWN POLICY (AUG. 6): "THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT CERTAIN AMOUNT OF MODERATION AND FLEXIBILITY... IS VERY THING THAT AMERICAN POLICY ITSELF LACKS IN ITS EFFORTS TO MEDIATE SETTLEMENT IN MIDEAST." GODLEY

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